

As of 10:00 AM on Monday, May 24, 2004

## **DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY STATUS REPORT # 2**

**Monday, May 24, 2004**

### **SITUATION OVERVIEW:**

A stationary front stalled out over Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan has caused severe thunderstorms and heavy rains, dousing the lower half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, since Thursday, May 20. Much of the rainfall has fallen in saturated areas that have experienced well-above average precipitation for the month of May. High winds, lightning, and hail were prevalent throughout the lower half of Michigan.

Here are some of the unofficial rainfall totals from **Thursday, May 20 through Sunday, May 23** at various locations of the State, from the National Weather Service:

Grand Rapids: 3.39 inches  
Lansing: 4.21 inches  
Muskegon: 4.15 inches  
Flint: 3.6 inches (Approximate)  
Detroit: 4.1 inches (Approximate)  
White Lake: 3.8 inches (Approximate)  
Saginaw: 2.3 inches (Approximate)

As of 9:00 AM today, the following 24 Michigan Counties are under Flood Warnings from the National Weather Service: Midland, Bay, Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Saginaw, St. Clair, Lapeer, Genesee, Shiawassee, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Wayne, Washtenaw, Monroe, Lenawee, Livingston, Ingham, Clinton, Ionia, Barry, Kent, and Ottawa.

Some of the rivers already above flood stage include:

Grand River (at Lansing, Portland, Ionia, Comstock Park, and Robinson Township)  
Flint River (at Flint)  
Thornapple River (at Hastings)  
Red Cedar River (at East Lansing)  
Muskegon River (at Newaygo)  
Maple River (at Maple Rapids)  
Shiawassee River (at Fergus and Owosso)  
Clinton River (at Clinton Township and Mt. Clemens)  
Thread Creek (at Davison)  
Huron River (at Hamburg)

The following areas have declared a Local State of Emergency as a result of flooding or thunderstorm damage: Berrien County (storm damage); Dearborn Heights (flooding); Macomb County (flooding), Allen Park (flooding) and the City of Ionia (flooding). St. Joseph County (storm damage) declared a Local State of Emergency but has rescinded the declaration as of this morning.

## **Severe Storms Outbreak of May 20-23, 2004**

### **Synopsis of Significant Events (based on available data as of 9:00 AM on Monday, May 24, 2004)**

- Consumers Energy reported that more than 235,000 customers were without power as a result of the 5/21 and 5/22 storms – the 10<sup>th</sup> highest total in Consumers Energy history – with 23,000 still without service as of Monday morning. DTE Energy had 210,000 customers without power over the weekend, with 50,000 still without service on Monday morning. About 60,000 American Electric Power customers in southwest Michigan lost power during the storms, and about 21,000 remained without power on Monday morning. The Detroit Free Press reported today that, all totaled, 505,000 customers were without power during varying points over the weekend, and that 94,000 customers were still without power on Monday morning.
- The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press are reporting that many local roads are flooded and impassable as of Monday morning, making morning commutes difficult in many cases.
- More than 20 counties in southeast and east-central Lower Michigan and the Thumb are under flood warning as of Monday morning.
- Tornadoes touched down on Sunday afternoon near Williamston (Ingham County) and Montrose (Genesee County). No reports of significant damage.
- Three persons died in southwest Michigan on Friday (5/21) when high winds blew trees onto vehicles.
- Benton Harbor (Berrien County) sustained at least \$800,000 in damage to businesses and plans to request federal disaster relief funds (according to the City Manager).
- About 1,000 basements have been flooded in Wayne County alone since Friday (5/21). Many other local jurisdictions have reported similar damage, but are still assessing the situation and collecting damage figures.
- In Utica, about 80 elderly residents from the Riverside 175 senior complex were evacuated by fire fighters on Sunday when the Clinton River went over its banks. The residents spent the night with relatives or were sheltered at a nearby church.
- The Oakland County Jail lost power on Sunday (5/23), but its emergency generator was powered up for approximately 2 hours to keep the jail operating.
- Wastewater treatment overflows have been reported in Wyandotte, Grand Rapids, and Port Huron sending diluted raw sewage into streams and rivers.

Additional reports will be made as more information is compiled and as the situation changes.

Attachment: Precipitation Totals from Flint, Saginaw, White Lake, and Detroit. Data is in green ink.

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